

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for obtaining information relating to an existence of at least one object in an image comprising:
 - obtaining image data comprising at least one object;
 - obtaining identifying information from a user wherein said identifying information relates to an existence of said at least one object in said image data;
 - storing identifying information associated with said image data; and
 - presenting said identifying information to said user upon selection of at least one of said at least one object and said one image data.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said image data comprises a photograph.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said at least one object comprises a subset of said photograph.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said subset represents a person.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein said subset represents a tangible object.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein said subset represents a set of coordinates bound within said image data.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said obtaining identifying information from said user further comprises:

presenting at a client computer an interface to said user to collect said identifying information;

providing said identifying information to a server system via an interconnection fabric.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said server system comprises a plurality of computers connected to said interconnection fabric.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising associating said identifying information with coordinates of said at least one object, wherein said coordinates identify a location of said at least one object in said image data.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
selecting said identification information from a list.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

said identifying information identifying at least one attribute of said at least one object within said image.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one attribute comprises a name associated with said at least one object.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one attribute comprises an electronic mail address associated with said at least one object.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one attribute comprises a network address associated with said at least one object.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one attribute comprises contact information associated with at least on object.

16. A method for displaying information about the existence of at least one object in at least one image comprising:

obtaining a request for image data;

obtaining said image data in response to said request;

obtaining naming information associated with said at least one object

wherein said naming information is supplied by a providing user;

displaying said image data and said naming information to a receiving user initiating said request.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said naming information is further associated with coordinates of said at least one image, wherein said coordinates identify a location of said at least one object in said image data.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of displaying said naming information further comprises visually accentuating said at least one object upon selection of said location.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising:
obtaining input from said receiving user, said input comprising selecting a location of at least one object in said image data and displaying said naming information to said receiving user upon selection of said location.

20. The method of claim 17 further comprising:
said identifying information identifying at least one attribute of said at least one object within said image.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein said at least one object has an associated hyperlink used to initiate a second request for other image data comprising said at least one object.

22. The method of claim 17 further comprising:
obtaining input from said receiving user, said input comprising selecting at least one object in said image data and display said location information to said receiving user upon selection of said at least one object.

23. The method of claim 16 further comprising:
said identifying information identifying at least one attribute of said at least one object within said image.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said at least one object has an associated hyperlink used to initiate a request for other images comprising said object.

22. The method of claim 16 wherein said step of obtaining said image in response to said request further comprises searching at least one computer for said image data.

23. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

said request for said image data further comprising obtaining a query for a list of one or more images comprising one or more within a plurality of images wherein said one or more objects comprises a subset of at least one of said plurality of images;

searching said system to derive a result, wherein said searching comprises comparing said query to identifying information associated with said object;

said displaying said image data further comprises returning said result to a user, said result identifying said at least one of said plurality of images having said object;

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising:

said identifying information identifying at least one attribute of said at least one object within said image.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said at least one attribute comprises a name associated with said at least one object.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein said at least one attribute comprises an electronic mail address associated with said at least one object.

27. The method of claim 24 wherein said at least one attribute comprises a network address associated with said at least one object.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein said at least one attribute comprises contact information associated with at least on object.

29. The method of claim 24 wherein said at least one image comprises a photograph and said at least one object comprises a person in said photograph.

30. The method of claim 24 further comprising:
determining coordinates identifying placement of said at least one object in said image.

31. The method of claim 24 wherein said returning said result further comprises:
generating a list, said list identifying which of said plurality of images comprises said at least one object in said query;
performing said presenting upon selection of an element of said list.

32. In a computer system, a method for obtaining and displaying information relating to the existence of at least one object in an image comprising:
obtaining image data comprising at least one person;

obtaining identifying information from a providing user wherein said identifying information comprises an idobject associated with said at least one person in said image data;

storing said identifying information in at least one first computer;

obtaining a request for said image data;

obtaining said image data from said at least one first computer in response to said request;

obtaining said identifying information associated with said image data in said request;

displaying said image data and said identifying information to a receiving user that initiated said request;

33. The method of 32 wherein said identifying information comprises location information that identifies coordinates of said at least one person in said image data.

34. The method of claim 32 wherein said image data further comprises at least one object.

35. The method of claim 32 wherein said identifying information comprises naming information.

36. The method of claim 32 wherein said obtaining said request for said image data further comprises:

transmitting said request from a second computer to said at least one first computer.

37. The method of claim 32 further comprising:

displaying a search interface to said receiving user;

obtaining a search request for said at least one person;

returning a list of at least one image having said at least one person.

38. A method for obtaining information relating to an existence of at least one object in an image comprising:

a means for obtaining image data comprising at least one object;

a means for obtaining identifying information from a user wherein said identifying information relates to an existence of said at least one object in said image data; and

a means for storing identifying information associated with said image data;

a means for presenting said identifying information to said user upon selection of at least one of said at least one object and said one image data.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein said image data comprises a photograph.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein said at least one object comprises a subset of said photograph.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein said subset represents a person.

42. The method of claim 40 wherein said subset represents a tangible object.

43. The method of claim 40 wherein said subset represents a set of coordinates bound within said image data.

44. The method of claim 38 wherein said obtaining identifying information from said user further comprises:

a means for presenting at a client computer an interface to said user to collect said identifying information;

a means for providing said identifying information to a server system via an interconnection fabric.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein said server system comprises a plurality of computers connected to said interconnection fabric.

46. The method of claim 38 further comprising a means for associating said identifying information with coordinates of said at least one object, wherein said coordinates identify a location of said at least one object in said image data.

47. The method of claim 38 further comprising:
a means for selecting said identification information from a list.

48. The method of claim 38 further comprising:
said identifying information comprising a means for identifying at least one attribute of said at least one object within said image.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein said at least one attribute comprises a name associated with said at least one object.

50. The method of claim 48 wherein said at least one attribute comprises an electronic mail address associated with said at least one object.

51. The method of claim 48 wherein said at least one attribute comprises a network address associated with said at least one object.

52. The method of claim 48 wherein said at least one attribute comprises contact information associated with at least on object.

53. A method for displaying information about the existence of at least one object in at least one image comprising:

- a means for obtaining a request for image data;
- a means for obtaining said image data in response to said request;
- a means for obtaining naming information associated with said at least one object wherein said naming information is supplied by a providing user;
- a means for displaying said image data and said naming information to a receiving user initiating said request.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein said naming information is further associated with coordinates of said at least one image, wherein said coordinates comprise a means for identifying a location of said at least one object in said image data.

55. The method of claim 53 wherein said means for displaying said naming information further comprises a means for visually accentuating said at least one object upon selection of said location.

56. The method of claim 54 further comprising:

- a means for obtaining input from said receiving user, said input comprising a means for selecting a location of at least one object in said image

data and a means for displaying said naming information to said receiving user upon selection of said location.

57. The method of claim 53 further comprising:

said identifying information comprising a means for identifying at least one attribute of said at least one object within said image.

58. The method of claim 53 wherein said at least one object comprises an associated hyperlink used to initiate a second request for other image data comprising said at least one object.

59. The method of claim 54 further comprising:

a means for obtaining input from said receiving user, said input comprising a means for selecting at least one object in said image data and display said location information to said receiving user upon selection of said at least one object.

60. The method of claim 53 further comprising:

said identifying information comprising a means for identifying at least one attribute of said at least one object within said image.

61. The method of claim 53 wherein said at least one object has an associated hyperlink used to initiate a request for other images comprising said at least one object.

62. The method of claim 53 wherein said means for obtaining said image in response to said request further comprises searching at least one computer for said image data.

63. The method of claim 53, further comprising:
said request for said image data further comprising a means for obtaining a query for a list of one or more images comprising one or more within a plurality of images wherein said one or more objects comprises a subset of at least one of said plurality of images;

a means for searching said system to derive a result, wherein said searching comprises comparing said query to identifying information associated with said object;

said displaying said image data further comprises a means for returning said result to a user, said result identifying said at least one of said plurality of images having said object.

64. The method of claim 63 further comprising:

said identifying information comprising a means for identifying at least one attribute of said at least one object within said image.

65. The method of claim 64 wherein said at least one attribute comprises a name associated with said at least one object.

66. The method of claim 64 wherein said at least one attribute comprises an electronic mail address associated with said at least one object.

67. The method of claim 64 wherein said at least one attribute comprises a network address associated with said at least one object.

68. The method of claim 64 wherein said at least one attribute comprises contact information associated with at least on object.

69. The method of claim 64 wherein said at least one image comprises a photograph and said at least one object comprises a person in said photograph.

70. The method of claim 64 further comprising:
a means for determining coordinates identifying placement of said at least one object in said image.

71. The method of claim 64 wherein said returning said result further comprises:

a means for generating a list, said list identifying which of said plurality of images comprises said at least one object in said query;

a means for performing said presenting upon selection of an element of said list.

72. In a computer system, a method for obtaining and displaying information relating to the existence of at least one object in an image comprising:

a means for obtaining image data comprising at least one person;

a means for obtaining identifying information from a providing user wherein said identifying information comprises an idobject associated with said at least one person in said image data;

a means for storing said identifying information in at least one first computer;

a means for obtaining a request for said image data;

a means for obtaining said image data from said at least one first computer in response to said request;

a means for obtaining said identifying information associated with said image data in said request;

a means for displaying said image data and said identifying information to a receiving user that initiated said request;

73. The method of 72 wherein said identifying information comprises location information that identifies coordinates of said at least one person in said image data.

74. The method of claim 72 wherein said image data further comprises at least one object.

75. The method of claim 72 wherein said identifying information comprises naming information.

76. The method of claim 32 wherein said means for obtaining said request for said image data further comprises:

a means for transmitting said request from a second computer to said at least one first computer.

77. The method of claim 32 further comprising:

a means for displaying a search interface to said receiving user;

a means for obtaining a search request for said at least one person;

a means for returning a list of at least one image having said at least one person.